

West Nile Virus (WNV) Summary Information for Physicians

To Whom Do You Report Suspect WNV Cases?

All Suspect cases (see below) of WNV should be reported immediately to the local medical officer of health/public health unit (include the patient's name, address, date of birth, sex, and date of onset of symptoms¹).

Where a physician has information that a case has received a blood transfusion or product from Canadian Blood Services (CBS), or has donated blood to CBS, this information should be provided to the local medical officer of health.

WNV Case Categories

This table provides a summary of the various categories of WNV cases identified by the interpretation of the primary laboratory-screening test, IgM ELISA². For additional information on other laboratory tests and specific clinical criteria, please refer to the Case Definition document included with this package. This year ELISA testing results will be available within 24 hours for probable cases and a second confirmatory ELISA within 48 hours. Confirmatory PRNT³ testing will take 7 days.

| | Category | Clinical Criteria | Laboratory Criteria |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------|--|
| West Nile Virus Neurological Syndrome | Suspect | Yes | Pending |
| | Probable | Yes | Serum IgM ELISA ² Positive |
| | Confirmed* | Yes | Serum IgM ELISA Positive + Confirmation by PRNT ³ |
| West Nile Virus Non-Neurological Syndrome | Suspect | Yes | Pending |
| | Probable | Yes | Serum IgM ELISA Positive |
| | Confirmed* | Yes | Serum IgM ELISA Positive + Confirmation by PRNT |
| West Nile Virus Asymptomatic Infection | Probable | No | Serum IgM ELISA Positive |
| | Confirmed* | No | Serum IgM ELISA Positive + Confirmation by PRNT |

* **Note: After three cases have been confirmed by PRNT in a health region, cases meeting the Probable laboratory criteria will be classified as Confirmed cases for surveillance purposes**

¹ together with the other requirements as specified in Section 5 of Regulation 569 made under the Health Protection and Promotion Act

² ELISA = enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

³ PRNT = plaque-reduction neutralization test

Case Definitions for 2005

Ontario's WNV case definition is based on the Public Health Agency of Canada's case definition. Case definitions and diagnostic test criteria are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For surveillance purposes, WNV Illness will consist of WNV Neurological Syndrome (WNNS), WNV Non-Neurological Syndrome (WN Non-NS) and WNV Asymptomatic Infection (WNAI). WNNS and WN Non-NS will each consist of the categories "Suspect", "Probable", and "Confirmed", and WNAI will consist of the categories "Probable" and "Confirmed", respectively, depending on laboratory diagnostic test results.

The case definitions have two (2) criteria for each of WNNS, WN Non-NS, and WNAI. One criterion is based on clinical features of the illness and the other criterion is based on laboratory test results.

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care WNV Website

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/pubhealth/westnile/wnv_mn.html